



NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office  
P.O. Box 1659  
Richmond, VA 23218-1659  
Phone (804) 771-2493  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: September 14, 2014**

**Number: 27**

**Released: September 15, 2014**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2014

The Commonwealth experienced diverse weather this week. Western Virginia was dry; the dry weather was ideal for hay and corn harvesting, but pastures conditions suffered. Most of Central Virginia experienced light showers with total rainfall for the week accumulating to ½ of an inch. Southeastern Virginia experienced heavy showers, rainfall for the week was reported at 4 to 8 inches; soybeans in this region reported an increase in disease due to the moisture. Strawberry growers in this region also struggled to fumigate and lay plasticulture beds due to the rain. Temperatures were about 10 degrees cooler when compared to last week, but seasonable for this time of year. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.9. As weather allowed, farmers harvested corn; initial yields on the corn looked favorable. Other farming activities for the week included harvesting tobacco, harvesting apples, making hay, and planting cover crops.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 14, 2014	1	19	67	13
September 7, 2014	2	26	67	5
August 31, 2014	2	25	64	9
August 24, 2014	2	22	66	10
SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
September 14, 2014	2	22	72	4
September 7, 2014	3	28	67	2
August 31, 2014	3	26	68	3
August 24, 2014	3	24	70	3

### IN THIS REPORT:

Crop Condition Percent	pg 2
Crop Progress Percent With Comparisons	pg 2
Weather Summary Table	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3,4

**Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Service**

**Virginia Tech**

**Virginia State University**

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	0	7	27	52	14
Soybeans	0	6	20	63	11
Tobacco, Burley	1	1	30	59	9
Cotton	0	0	2	90	8
Peanuts	0	0	5	80	15
Livestock	1	4	22	61	12
Pasture and Range	2	11	32	48	7
Hay, Alfalfa	0	5	30	55	10
Hay, Other	2	11	37	45	5
Apples, All	0	2	30	62	6
Grapes, All	0	12	32	45	11

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Cotton Bolls Opening	38	36	38	44
Peanuts Dug	0	0	2	1
Corn Dough	94	91	99	99
Corn Dented	86	79	91	90
Corn Mature	69	59	72	73
Corn for Grain Harvested	24	14	34	35
Corn for Silage Harvested	72	58	71	74
Soybeans Blooming	97	90	99	100
Soybeans Setting Pods	87	80	93	95
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	8	4	8	14
Wheat Seeded	1	0	2	3
Barley Seeded	3	1	0	5
Flue-Cured Tobacco Harvested	57	48	70	57
Fire-Cured Tobacco Cut	66	49	92	86
Burley Tobacco Stripped	37	15	47	48
All Apples Harvested	38	35	n/a	n/a
Peaches Harvested	97	89	99	96

### VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING September 14, 2014

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar 1. To Sept 13	Mar. 1 to Sept 13 Norm	Last Week	Since Sept 1	Sept 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	76	63	87	59	69	-1	3385	3259	0.38	0.95	-0.60	34.94	3.75
Norfolk	80	70	88	68	75	1	3862	3599	5.12	7.03	5.22	39.45	5.45
Richmond	80	66	90	61	73	1	3859	3519	0.46	0.55	-1.11	26.22	-5.75
Roanoke	76	63	87	58	70	0	3417	n/a	0.40	1.01	-0.67	29.58	-1.55
Wash/Dulles	76	62	86	55	69	-1	3156	n/a	0.07	0.21	-1.54	36.40	6.57

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

### REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

#### NORTHERN

##### **FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)**

Frederick is getting dry. Talked with some producers this week; we are in need of rainfall. Weather has been humid, dry during the day and lower temperatures in the evening.

#### WESTERN

##### **ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)**

A low pressure system brought cooler temperatures but no rain this week. Dry conditions hurt pastures but allowed corn silage harvest to progress rapidly.

#### CENTRAL

##### **AMELIA (Joan Poore)**

Some light rain Saturday, less than 1/2 inch, and temperatures much cooler.

##### **HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

Scattered spotty showers across the county again this week. More miss than hit. The temperatures have moderated greatly and have actually turned cool. Saw the first fields of harvested soy beans this week. No report yet on yields

##### **NELSON (Michael LaChance)**

Hayland are being cut and apple harvest is underway.

#### EASTERN

##### **ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Rainfall amounts during the week varied from less than half an inch to well over an inch. Corn harvest continued at a good pace. Farmers continued scouting soybeans for pests, but the season is winding down now. With much lower commodity prices, farmers are trying to determine how much wheat to plant this fall. It appears acreage will be down some.

#### SOUTHWESTERN

##### **SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Corn crop looking extremely good, with silage yields being above normal and estimated grain harvest above normal. Vegetable season winding down, with excess rain causing disease issues. Cattle prices remain solid, and producers are developing on VAPAH heifers.

##### **TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)**

Raining making it difficult to get second cutting hay.

## **SOUTHERN**

### **FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)**

Cooler nights and rain showers slowed corn silage chopping.

## **SOUTHEASTERN**

### **BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)**

Some pastures are in need of summer weed control, fertility, and replanting. Some fall fertility is going in on some pastures for stockpiling. The weekend rain kept some folks out of the fields. Soybeans still turning and slowly beginning to drop leaves.

### **CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence Jr.)**

Heavy rains brought 4 to 8 inches this week. Limited field activity because of storms. Soybeans starting to show some signs of disease and/or yellowing due to wet soil and heavy moisture conditions. Crop still has strong yield potential. Strawberry growers having difficulty getting plasticulture beds laid and fumigation done in time for replant in timely manner because of wet soils.

### **SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

Heavy rains last week 9/8/14 helped end a dry spell. It slowed corn harvest but gave needed moisture to cotton, peanuts, soybeans, and pastures.

### **SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)**

Heavy rain fell over our area last week and the totals were 4.5 to over 8 inches were reported. Peanut, cotton and late planted soybeans will benefit greatly as harvest season is just around the corner. Corn harvest will start up as soon as fields dry out and yields are reported as good in most areas.

### **VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)**

Untimely rains have kept corn harvest at a snail's pace. Strawberry bed preparation has been almost an impossible task, with 50% or more of the acreage still too wet to work.